Frequent-Traveller schemes on Shatabdi trains

1910. SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any plans to introduce frequent traveller benefit schemes on short-distance trains like Shatabdi trains; and

(b) if so, the details of the proposal in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) and (b) With a view to improve the patronisation of higher classes, where occupancy level is relatively low as compared to that in Sleeper class and 3-AC classes, a Scheme of Frequent Travellers (SOFT) has been launched in the month of February, 2006, which is applicable to 1st AC, 2AC and AC Chair Car Classes. A Frequent Traveller will get a complimentary train trip after certain numbers of reward points are accumulated.

Escalator facility at Madurai

1911. SHRI C. PERUMAL:
SHRI R. SHUNMUGASUNDARAM:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is proposed to set up escalator facility at Madurai railway station; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) and (b) There is a proposal for provision of escalator facility at Madurai Junction railway station and the same would be considered alongwith other works subject to availability of funds, etc.

Bijapur-Yeshwanthpur-Basava Express

1912. SHRI KB. SHANAPPA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Bijapur-Yeshwanthpur-Basava Express has started operating on daily basis instead of thrice in week;

(b) if so, the details thereof;